

Today's Advertisements.

BANK HOLIDAYS.

IN accordance with Ordinance No. 6 of 1872 the Undermentioned BANKS will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on FRIDAY, the 10th instant (Good Friday) and on MONDAY, the 15th instant (Easter Monday):—

For the CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA,
A. C. MARSHALL,
Manager, Hongkong.

For the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,
T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.

For the NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED,
A. BARRINGTON,
for Chief Manager.

For the MERCHANTS BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED,
JOHN THURBURN,
Manager, Hongkong.

For the BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE STRAITS, LIMITED, HONGKONG,
CHAMBERLAIN INCHBALD,
Manager.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1895. 447

SHANGHAI RACES.

RETURN TICKETS (First Saloon) for the SHANGHAI RACES can be obtained on and after this date by the Steamers of the UNDERMENTIONED LINES, available for our service from date of issue.

FARTY.....\$62.

A. WOOLLEY,
Agent, Superintendent,
Peninsula and Oriental S. N. Co.
C. TOURNAIRE,
Agent, Agent,
Messageries Maritimes Co.
Messrs. FRUCHERS & Co.,
Agents,
North German Lloyd.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1895. 447

PERSERVERANCE LODGE OF HONGKONG, No. 1165, E.C.

AN EMERGENCY MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in the FREEMASONS' Hall, Zetland Street, on WEDNESDAY, the 10th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1895. 448

SELOUNE LODGE OF HONGKONG, No. 618, S.C.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in the FREEMASONS' Hall, Zetland Street, on THURSDAY, the 11th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1895. 449

CATHAY CHAPTER, No. 1165.

AN EMERGENCY CONVOCAION of the above CHAPTER will be held in the FREEMASONS' Hall, Zetland Street, on MONDAY, the 15th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1895. 450

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND TAMSUI. The Company's Steamship

"RAILONG," Captain Hall will be despatched for the above Ports on or about the 9th instant, at 10 A.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS, LAIPRAK & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1895. 444

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SHANGHAI. The Steamship

"HANGCHOW," Captain Nelson will be despatched on WEDNESDAY, the 10th instant, at 10 A.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1895. 452

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR YOKOHAMA AND KOBE. The Steamship

"TAIYUAN," Captain Nelson will be despatched on THURSDAY, the 11th instant, at 10 A.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1895. 453

FOR TIENTSIN, VIA SHANGHAI. The German Steamer

"TEVI," Captain Blake will be despatched for the above Ports on or about the 17th instant, at 5 P.M.

For further particulars regarding Freight and Passage, apply to CARLOWITZ & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1895. 445

"STRATH" LINE OF STEAMERS. FOR NEW YORK, VIA SUEZ CANAL. The Steamship

"STRATHCARRON," Captain Splatt will be despatched for the above Ports on or about the 17th instant, at 5 P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DODWELL, CARLILL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1895. 446

Today's Advertisements.

AUSTRIAN LLOYD'S STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES. FROM SHANGHAI AND KOBE.

THE Steamship "GISELA," having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, whence delivery may be obtained. No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all claims must be sent in to the Underwritten before Noon on the 16th instant, or they will not be recognised. No Five Insurance has been effected, and any Goods remaining in the Godowns after the 16th instant, will be subject to rent. Bills of Lading will be countersigned by SANDER & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 8th April, 1895. 340

Intimations.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK & COMPANY, LIMITED. VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

COLD'S IN THE HEAD, &c.

BURROUGHS WELLCOME & Co.'s PINOL EUCALYPTIA INHALERS.

ONE of the best remedies extant for Nasal Catarrh and all disorders of the Nasal Passages and Nasopharyngeal membranes. Price.....\$1.25.

EUCALYPTUS OIL.

A STANDARD REMEDY FOR COLDS. Sprinkled on the handkerchief and over the breast of the night clothing it gives almost instant relief.

DAKIN, CRUICKSHANK & Co., LD., VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 19th January, 1895. 327

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED. ESTABLISHED A.D. 1847.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

ALL there are Selected by our London House, bought direct at first hand, imported in Wood and Bottled by ourselves, thus saving all intermediate profits and enabling us to supply the best goods at moderate prices.

PRICE LISTS, WITH FULL DETAILS, TO BE HAD ON APPLICATION.

PORT:—After removal should be rested a month before use. When required for drinking at once it should be ordered to be decanted at the Dispensary before being sent out.

SHERRY:—Excellent dinner and after dinner Wines of very superior vintage. All are true Xeres Wines.

CLARET:—Our Claret, including the lowest priced, are guaranteed to be the genuine product of the grape and are not artificially made from raisins and currents, as is generally the case with Cheap Wines.

BRANDY:—All our Brandy is guaranteed to be pure Cognac, the difference in price being merely a question of age and vintage.

HISKY:—All our Whisky is of excellent quality and of greater age than most brands in the market. The Scotch Whisky marked "E" is universally popular and is pronounced by the best local connoisseurs to be superior to any other brand in the Hongkong Market.

We only guarantee our Wines and Spirits to be genuine when bought direct from us in the Colony or from our authorised Agents at the Coast Ports.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD. THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 9th January, 1895. 1

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH

HONGKONG, MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1895.

THE FAR EASTERN QUESTION.

It may be a matter of very great importance to China to preserve "face" than to retain territory, although it is difficult to see how she can lose the one without at the same time forfeiting the other. She may, however, so contrive as to preserve her prestige, among her own people at least, and yet sacrifice, for the sake of the peace she must now have at almost any cost, considerable portions of her domain and a very much larger proportion of her actual wealth. For

Englishmen it is a matter of very little importance that she should be discredited and put to shame. Perhaps it would suit our purpose that the eyes of her people should at length be opened to their shortcomings as a government and as a nation, but it is clear that it is of very great importance to England to know, as the result of this war, China is to lose territory and to whom she is to surrender it. We do not ourselves want any portion of her soil; except, perhaps, a very little bit (a few strategic points) on the opposite mainland to round off the defences of this colony. We have no desire to make conquests and to add to the responsibilities of the Empire. That grows fast enough as it is, in spite of every effort to keep down the expansion. We want free trade, free channels for our commerce; open markets for our manufactures; open harbours for our ships, perfect safety and a welcome everywhere for our traders. If we can have these things, it matters little who owns the land or what flags fly over the forts and ships. If we cannot have these things, if the result of any changes may be to shut out our trade from any country, to exclude our manufactures, or to tax them so heavily as to preclude competition, then it behoves us to have a word to say before any such changes are carried out, and to be prepared to say that word and to be able to back that word by deeds when the proper time comes for speaking and acting. To be prepared to speak and act wisely and with decision the questions involved must be carefully thought out and the cause and effect examined in all their bearings before hand.

Let us now see what the elements of the question are. The natives interested are, first the Chinese and Japanese, who are at war; secondly, the Koreans over whom these parties have quarrelled, and for whose benefit, it is alleged, a vast amount of blood has been shed and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been wasted, and who, in all likelihood will be the prize of the conqueror, unless a greater power than either of the belligerents steps in to despoil the spoiler; Russia and France in the front rank, with the United States and Germany a little further removed from the heat and turmoil of the fray. All other nations may be safely left out of the reckoning for the time being. China is utterly crushed and beaten without a hope of recovering herself in the present war, whatever she may be able to do in the far distant future. Her utter lack of organisation for defensive purposes is beyond doubt and the very solidity and strength of that organisation for certain purposes and within certain limits, her intense conservatism, renders any speedy change of front or of policy impossible. Is she capable of reorganisation or improvement except by the process of breaking up, putting into the melting pot, and entirely recasting in a new mould? It would almost appear as if the answer must be in the negative. She is just now like the Roman Empire in the last days of its waning power and vain glory—incapable of internal reform, or reconstruction, altogether too unwieldy, too effete for resistance or bold defence, surrounded and attacked on all sides by what the mandarinate are pleased to term barbarians. "Barbarians" encompass China on all sides and have been already torn from her vast portions of her outlying appendages; the Franks are threatening her on the South, the Saxons are closing in on the South-west, the Scythians are very much in evidence in the North, and the Goths and Vandals of Japan are nearing the capital. Does it not look as if history is now repeating itself in a remarkable manner? Do not present appearances indicate that China can only be reformed by being practically destroyed as was the civilization and the wisdom of Rome? Can we count on China as a real factor in the contest for empire in the Far East, or simply as the subject matter of the contest and the site of active operations?

Japan is young, vigorous, warlike, greedy, with a definite policy of conquest and a powerful concrete government backed by a patriotic people. She wants territory wherein to expand. She aims at becoming a ship-owning, a manufacturing, a trading country. She looks forward—and justly so—to a great and glorious future. We have no quarrel with her, no desire to quarrel with her, no objection to her acquiring name and fame, power and territory, so long as she is satisfied with fair competition and treats us and our manufactures as we are willing to treat hers. Russia is a vast power with a traditional policy of great definiteness, devoted to territorial acquisition, equally devoted to the principles of protection as opposed to free trade, and we say it with all due regard for the present *entente cordiale*, she is our commercial opponent and enemy wherever she has influence. English trade dies out where the Russian influence predominates. English goods never enter where the Russian flag flies. In 1860 Russia took a huge slice of China under guise of the most disinterested friendship, and Russian publicists to-day urge the acquisition of Korea; and an advance to the Great Wall of China, as a duty incumbent on the beneficent Government of the Czar. So far as she has made any formal or official declaration, Russia has insisted that Japan shall not have Korea and is that Manchuria shall not fall a prey to her either!

Of the two powers, Russia and Japan, which would we prefer to see in full possession and control of Korea? Can there be a second opinion on the question? Surely not Russia! What is to be the fate of Korea? The fate of Korea must forebode the future of the Orient generally. It seems impossible that it can be returned to the care or suzerainty of China. To do so would simply mean to postpone the settlement of the Korean problem and leave it to be fought out again at no very distant period. Is Korea to be a protected state, and a neutral zone, under the guarantee of the Treaty Powers? If so, who is to be the *mandatary* of the Powers to effect the consequent needful reforms in that ill-governed land? Whoever gets that *mandatary*, and with it virtual possession, will remain master of the situation for ever. Is it to be Russia? Would that alternative suit either Japan or England? No. Is it to be Japan? If so, we have little interest, perhaps absolutely none, in opposing her. For many years to come, Japan, at the worst, can only oppose or threaten us in eastern seas. Russian advances and successes jeopardise our interests here, in India, in Persia, and in the Mediterranean, in fact throughout the whole world. England should favour the predominance of Japan in Korea either as a temporary or permanent expedient. Japan, among the Western Powers, can only look to English support to reap the fruits of her successes and efforts in this war. Russia and Japan have distinctly opposing interests of the most vital character in the results of the present war, and they are the closest neighbours. Where would Japan be, with Russia in force, in Korea and all along the northern frontier of China? With a greedy and deadly enemy at her gates, who knows no mercy and who can bite her heart, the destiny of Japan would not be far to seek. Great Britain and Japan have common interests and cause in the Far East, and with a view to securing the peace of the Orient and their own future welfare should, we make bold to assert, be staunch friends and inseparable allies for all time. By such an alliance only can we hope to see a much-needed adjustment of the balance of legitimate power in Eastern Asia.

A STARTLING MOVE. CANTON RIVER NIGHT TRAFFIC STOPPED. The news received here to-day from Canton that night traffic on the Pearl River must be suspended from this date until further notice owing to the Chinese authorities having seen fit to lay down a number of additional mines and torpedoes, owing to their fear of an attack on the city of Canton by the Japanese, is to our way of thinking the most startling, although probably necessary, move made by the Chinese since the outbreak of war. In September last the British Consul stationed at Canton protested vigorously against any interference with the trade of Canton and he succeeded in inducing the Chinese to act in a reasonable manner, and we are much surprised therefore now to learn that without any warning the important trade carried on between this colony and the "City of Rams" will be seriously interfered with, and we await with interest the receipt of full particulars of this sudden change of front, which is, however, on all fours with the action taken by the Chinese during the Franco-Chinese war. It is reasonable to suppose that Mr. Byron Brennan has protested against the action of the Viceroy on this as on the previous occasion of Celestial "scare," but as it is probable that a good many of our readers have forgotten the gist of the correspondence that passed between the Consul and the Colonial Secretary, we reproduce two of Mr. Brennan's letters, which speak for themselves and will be read with interest at the present time:—

H. M. CONSULATE, Canton, 29th September, 1894.

Sir, I have the honour to inform you that I have to-day received a note from the Viceroy in which he states that in consequence of the state of hostilities now existing between China and Japan, Chinese men-of-war will be stationed at the Bogue to search vessels passing by, and I am requested to give notice to shipmasters that they must stop on approaching these vessels of war "which will fly a flag by day and show a lantern at night."

I have replied to the Viceroy that I must have more precise information about the signals before I can comply with his request. The Viceroy further states that if any persons are found on board whom there is reason to suspect, they will be removed and sent to Canton for examination. I have warned the Viceroy of the very serious consequences which such a proceeding will entail. I have, &c., (Sd.) BYRON BRENNAN, Consul.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary, Hongkong.

H. M. CONSULATE, Canton, 1st October, 1894.

Sir, Referring to my letter of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that the Viceroy has sent me a second despatch giving more precise information respecting the guard-boat which is to be stationed at the Bogue. The Viceroy gives me notice that the gun vessel *Anlan* will be stationed at the Bogue, and that she will show a square red flag at the fore by day, and three red lights by night. Allward bound vessels on approaching the *Anlan* are required to stop in order that they may be boarded if it is considered necessary. The place where the *Anlan* will lie is given in Chinese as (Sha Koh Hau Mun). I have, &c., (Sd.) BYRON BRENNAN, Consul.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

TELEGRAMS.

THE CHITRAL EXPEDITION. LONDON, April 6th.

The First Brigade of the Chitral expedition has repulsed an attack of 1,200 Swatis, killing thirty of their number; the remainder fled to the hills. The Garrison at Chitral is safe and well supplied.

THE OSCAR WILDE SCANDAL. The evidence against Oscar Wilde at Bow Street was of a highly damning nature, and the case stands remanded till Thursday; bail has been refused.

JABEZ BALFOUR. Jabez Balfour has sailed from Argentina for England.

LI HUNG-CHANG'S CONDITION. Li Hung-Chang's wound has healed.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Portuguese gunboat *Diu*, after thorough overhaul in Kowloon Dock, left here for Macao yesterday afternoon.

We understand that a slight hitch has occurred between the Government and the head coolies, who refuse to fly a security for their future good behaviour, etc.

MR. R. S. GUNDRY, whose name in the *Forfeitedly* we noticed on Saturday, has launched a great work entitled, "China, Present and Past." It is published at half a guinea by Messrs. Chapman and Hall.

A LONG "wanted" head coolie of the 1-12th hours returned from Tientsin yesterday, and was arrested in a house in Queen's Road West last night. He appeared at the Magistracy to-day, before Mr. Hastings, who banished him for five years.

LAST Friday night as the *Fatsan* was proceeding up to Canton, near Can-sul-moon Pass, a Chinaman jumped overboard. Boats were lowered at once, but the man could not be found. However, the *Tai-on*, which turned up twenty minutes afterwards, saw the man struggling in the water and picked him up after much difficulty.

A SIGN of the times! An interesting illustration of the thoroughness with which Japan is entering upon the study of what we must soon cease to call "western" science, occurs in *Nature* of March 7th. It is an advertisement of the Kellogg's Natural History Store opened at Tokio to supply museums and private purchasers with zoological, palaeontological and mineralogical specimens. We do not believe there is anything like this in Asia. Certainly no Asiatic institution of the kind has hitherto invaded the stronghold of Western science.

At the Geological Society of London, on Feb. 6th, a paper by Mr. S. B. J. Skerichy, of Hongkong, and Mr. T. W. Kinsmill, of Shanghai, on "The Loess and other Superficial Deposits of Shantung" was read, and will appear in the forthcoming issue of the *Journal* of the Society. The authors state that much of North China has been submerged within recent times, and bring evidence to show that the mammoth and woolly rhinoceros survived in China till within the historical period. They give reasons for believing that N.E. Asia did not undergo a glacial period when Western Europe and Eastern America were clothed in ice.

At the Linnean Society of London on Feb. 7th Mr. W. B. Hemsley, of Kew Gardens, exhibited a number of dried specimens of plants from Eastern Asia. Conspicuous amongst these was a new genus of *Scitamineae* from the mountains of North Siam; a remarkably broad-leaved *Lysimachia* from the same region; new species of *Hypericum*, *Vandellia*, *Mussaenda*, and *Felicula* from Formosa; and a new genus of *Cyrtandra* from a collection made in Yunnan by Mr. W. Hancock of Hongkong, came a new *Tasmanian* allied to *Y. nudiflorum*, with primrose yellow flowers an inch and a half in diameter; an elegant species of *Petrocosmea*; and a showy *Brandsia* with long racemes of crimson flowers, which were much admired.

BROADWOOD PIANOS at W. Robinson & Co.

NEXT Friday and Monday (15th) are advertised as Bank holidays.

THE Italian cruiser *Cristoforo Colombo* arrived here this afternoon from Bangkok.

The First Lord of the Admiralty has announced an important programme of new works at Portland, Gibraltar, Dover, Hongkong and Portsmouth, the cost of which it is proposed to meet by a loan. With regard to Hongkong Earl Spencer remarks the present dockyard is not sufficient for the increasing demands of the squadron of this distant but very important station.

COLLARD & COLLARD PIANOS at W. Robinson & Co.

THE Hon. Secretary of the V.R.C. informs us that, owing to some miscalculations, the distances of the following events run off at Saturday's sports were incorrect and that the following should therefore be noted by those who take an interest in such matters:—

Time	Distance	Time for full distance
One mile	4.50	170 yds. 5 in. 31 sec
Half mile	2.24-5th	85 yds. 2 12
Quarter mile	2.03	56 3-5th
210 yards	2.00	54 1-5th

On the 24th ultimo Mr. Heneker Heaton asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he had received a copy of the petition addressed by ratepayers of the Crown Colony of Hongkong praying for representative government; and what steps had been taken in the matter to grant the request of the petitioners? Mr. Burton replied—A copy of the petition was received some time ago, but the Secretary of State, after careful consideration, was unable to meet the views of the memorialists in regard to the proposals made for the grant of representative government to Hongkong.

W. ROBINSON & Co., piano builders, tuners and repairers.

USUALLY at this time of the year several thousand Amoy people migrate to Tamsui, Formosa, as tea-pickers, packers, etc. With the dread of the Japanese invasion of the island, this year, few, if any, are saying the *Poochow Echo*, reported as going, and therefore the Tamsui tea crop is bound to be entirely spoilt. Of course if this is the case it should be good news for the Poochow tea-merchants, who are reported to be in splendid condition. The picking will begin in a fortnight, or about the 10th instant, and already most of the tea brokers are up country with treasure, and lead, contracting for the first crop.

H.M. Majesty's cruiser *Rainbow* was put into commission on 24th ultimo at Devonport by Captain W. C. C. F. Smith for service on the China Station. She will have a complement of 273 officers and men. Her previous names were a wooden gunboat, of shallow draught, built specially for service in China during the war of 1860, so that the name of the latest addition to the China squadron will not be a new one in the Far East. The old *Rainbow* some years after her return from China was handed over to the London corps of the Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers, and was for many years moored in the Thames opposite Somerset House.

New Comic Song and Dance Albums at W. Robinson & Co.

THE returns of the number of visitors to the City Hall Museum for the week ended April 7th, are:—Europeans, 146; Chinese, 1,608; total 1,754.

A REGULAR meeting of St. John's Lodge, No. 618, S.C. will be held in the Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, on Thursday, the 11th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

An Emergency Convocation of Cathay Chapter, No. 1165, will be held in the Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, on Monday, the 9th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting companions are cordially invited.

An Emergency meeting of Perseverance Lodge No. 1165, E.C. will be held in the Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, on Wednesday, the 10th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

The annual meeting of the Finance Committee of the Alice Memorial and Netherese Hospitals will be held at the Alice Memorial Hospital on Thursday, the 11th inst., at 5 p.m., when the Hon. Treasurer will present his report.

New piano repairing machinery, received by W. Robinson & Co.

FOR the twenty-first year in succession the Prince of Wales has been elected unanimously in Grand Lodge as Most Worshipful Grand Master of English Freemasons. Mr. Stiles was, as the *L. & C. Express*, elected Grand Treasurer for the year.

THIS morning Mr. Alfred Gascoigne Wise was sworn in as Attorney General, and Mr. T. Scrobbie Smith as Police Judge. The latter took his seat on the Bench this morning for the first time, in the Appeal Court, associated with the Honourable W. M. Goodman, Acting Chief Justice.

THE total number of lives lost by cholera in Meiji since the epidemic recently made its appearance there has been ten. Since the 19th ult., no fresh case has appeared, and it is hoped in Yokohama that the mischief is checked. The report that the disease had reached Shimane is stated by the *Yokohama Mail* to be untrue.

COLONEL Cockrell's engagement as New York Herald correspondent in Japan is, apparently, not to terminate with the war. Mr. Gordon Bennett is said to anticipate an early reopening of the fight for constitutional privileges in Japan, and to have determined, on that supposition, to be specially represented in Dai Nippon for some years to come.

FULL stock of banjos, mandolins, guitars, accordions, staves and fittings of all kinds at W. Robinson & Co.

In the *Nichi Nichi* it is semi-officially stated that the Japanese casualties from the 21st of September to the 8th of March are:—Killed in battle 542; died of wounds, 131; that died of sickness, 981; making a total of 1,654. The *Yokohama* contrasts these figures with the record of casualties in the Satsuma Rebellion of 1877, when 12,000 men were wounded and 4,653 killed on the Government side.

THE CONCERT AT THE CITY HALL.

(FROM OUR UNMUSICAL CRITIC.)

My musical fellow labourer in your employ gave you what was, I have no doubt, in the eyes of the *connoisseurs*, a very clever and highly scientific exhibition of the first performance of "The Hymn of Praise." I am obliged to you, if you will accept it, a wholly unscientific opinion on the subject of the second performance, premising only that I am after barbarian in all things musical. I prefer "Molly Bawn" or "The Last Rose of Summer" or "Cullin Horn" or the drums and fife of a marching regiment rolling out "The Girl I Left Behind Me" to the most approved *morceaux* from the Music Hall stage, of the most classical compositions of the greatest of the German or Italian masters. The first disgust me as a rule, although one must, perforce, sometimes laugh with the lamentable Brady or the chummy C. T. R. The latter make me yawn or send me to sleep, and I may remark, *en passant*, as the pawn said, that that was just the effect produced on a distinguished visitor to the City Hall on Saturday night. I am not speaking of myself. I don't think I did sleep. Neither do I mean to say that he was the only one who did, but I think he was the most distinguished and he slumbered so sweetly and woke up each time looking so genial and unconscious that it was a real pleasure to watch him. I would not, for worlds, mention his name and I can only suppose that after the din of recent battle and the *sturm und drang* of the winds and waves he found the more powerful of the orchestral and choral effects quite too soothing.

To be resumed. I enjoyed the performance on Saturday night much more than I did the "Reverie" last year. "The Hymn of Praise" is to me a year more musical, much less monotonous, and went with greater spirit and vivacity. Of course it is a lighter and more joyous subject. The orchestra was much more effective on Saturday night and much better. The obnoxious and tedious drums—I beg their pardons, the Timpans—seemed to add very considerably to the effect of the performance. A brass fiddle gave way with alarming result at one stage of the performance, and the poor fellow fell gently on his back and retired. As my neighbour remarked to me "and the subsequent proceedings no further troubled him." I was sorry for him, for he seemed to have been putting his whole soul into the performance. The choruses were distinctly good, the parts evenly balanced, the effects adequate and harmonious. I was disappointed in the solo. They were not what I expected. Perhaps I had expected too much. I have not a cultivated ear, but the voices seemed to me to lack that degree of culture and high finish that home training and long study alone can give. Nevertheless most hearty thanks are due to all those whether in the ranks of the chorus or in more conspicuous positions who devoted so much time, so much labour, so much sweetness and skill to the task of entertaining us, and who presented on Saturday night an *ensemble* so attractive and so pleasing. Hongkong can present to the eye of the passing stranger a galaxy of beauty and good looks not to be equalled in any colony under the sun, and whatever my car may be my eyes are still good. A critic would not be complete if he had not some suggestion to make by way of improving the occasion. May I suggest that on future occasions the stage should, from the beginning, be filled by the members of the choir. During the first part of the performance the other evening, the platform looked miserably empty; the singers were lost on it and there was little to attract the attention of the audience to what was going on that the first song was half way through before the house knew that the concert had commenced. This could not have happened if the members of the choir had stood all together at the first and taken their cue. Think, too, how much pleasure for the audience.

